

In the Claims

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for the repair or replacement of vocal cord tissues comprising the steps of:

removing a damaged or diseased portion of a vocal cord, and

replacing the removed portion of the vocal cord with a graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or basement membrane.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises submucosa and the submucosa is selected from the group consisting of intestinal submucosa, urinary bladder submucosa, and stomach submucosa.
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the submucosa is intestinal submucosa.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises vertebrate basement membrane.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises 2-12 layers of submucosa.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises 4-6 layers of submucosa.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the graft construct is formed as a multilayered homolaminate construct.
8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises a single layer of submucosa.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for the repair or replacement of damaged or diseased head ~~and~~ or neck soft tissues comprising the steps of:

removing the damaged or diseased portion of the head ~~and~~ or neck soft tissues, and

replacing the removed portion of tissue with a graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or basement membrane,

wherein the head ~~and~~ or neck soft tissues are selected from the group consisting of vocal cord, larynx, palette, ~~attached gingiva~~, nasal, and auricular tissues.

10. Canceled

11. Canceled

12. (Previously added) A method for the repair or replacement of damaged or diseased head ~~and~~ or neck soft tissues comprising the steps of:

removing a damaged or diseased portion of the head ~~and~~ or neck soft tissues;
and

replacing the removed portion of tissue with a graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or basement membrane,

wherein the head ~~and~~ or neck soft tissues include a native structure having an epithelial cell layer, connective tissue, and functional muscle.